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A REPLY

TO THE

RESOLUTIONS AND ADDRESS

OF

A MEETING CONVENED AT MARTLINGS, IN THE
CITY OF NEW-YORK, FEBRUARY 4, 1811.

CONTAINING,

THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Committee of Safety, of '76,

AGAINST

MANGLE MINTHORNE,

CHAIRMAN OF THAT MEETING.

By a Whig of '76.

presented at
Robert M. M. M. M.

NEW-YORK:

PRINTED BY HENRY C. SOUTHWICK,

No. 3, New-street.

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1811.

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TO THE PEOPLE.

FRIENDS, COUNTRYMEN, AND FELLOW-CITIZENS,

ALLOW me to appeal to you upon a subject dear and interesting to us all. The security of the whig party and its principles is of the first consequence to our happiness, and the man who would jeopardize either, is an enemy to the country. There never was a period when union was more imperiously required. Surrounded as we are by foreign and domestic difficulties, we have much to contend with, and much to apprehend.

In this situation of our affairs, it was with regret that I have read an address which has been promulgated to the world, and which, if it should receive attention and countenance, must end in the total overthrow of the republican party, for the bulk of mankind are not so depraved as to make a voluntary sacrifice of some of their best and most valuable citizens.

That there exists in the city of New-York, under the assumed but false name of MADISONIAN, a faction which meditates the destruction of the whig party in this state, is a truth that artifice can no longer disguise, and incredulity no longer disbelieve. It pursues its object with a zeal proportioned to the magnitude of the attempt, under pretences which are calculated to deceive, with a boldness that alarms the timid, and

with an effrontery that marks the desperation of its views.

No calumny is too foul for it to employ. No falsehood too gross for it to circulate. But marching on in its course of proscription, it wages a barbarous war against virtue and talents. The most distinguished—the most tried—and the best beloved of our fellow-citizens are held up to public execration. Whigs and the sons of whigs are denounced, and even the soldier of the revolution is branded as an apostate.

The CLINTONIAN PARTY as it is designated by the faction, has long and deservedly been respected by the people. It is entitled to their regard, because it is composed of republicans from affection, and which no condition of things can change. Its destinies are interwoven with the whig interests of the state. The Clintonian party grew up with the revolution, and must be lost when the principles of that brilliant æra are forgotten or abandoned. Yet this party are declared to have forfeited all claim to public confidence. Their friends both in and out of the state are denounced as enemies to liberty, and, without a single exception, they are, in the most formal and deliberate manner, charged “*with sacrificing the best interests of the nation, and even encouraging the obstinacy of foreign powers in their aggressions.*”

Clintonians! In what have you sacrificed “the best interests of the nation?” In what have you encouraged “foreign powers in their aggressions?”

MEN, COUNTRYMEN, AND BRETHREN,

Does not decency require, and justice demand that there should be some proof of the fact? Is the peo-

pie a monster that will swallow any thing? Have the people no intelligence—that a Martling's meeting shall thus dare to sport with them? Will Mangle Minthorne deign to tell us in what respect the Clintonians have sacrificed “the best interests of the nation?” In what respect have they “encouraged foreign powers in their aggressions?” What foreign powers have they thus encouraged? Is it France and Great Britain—Denmark and Sweden—or Spain and Russia? Wise men will despise such excessive extravagancies, and ascribe them to a disordered imagination, but mankind in general are unwilling to make such allowances, and usually impute calumny and falsehood to a radical error of the heart.

Hence there is a point of endurance beyond which public patience will not go, and insult and injury will no longer be borne. This desperate faction has aroused the most indifferent, and inflamed the most moderate. The hardihood of their accusations, and the extent to which they have carried them, have awakened universal resentment, and the time has at last come when the people will be satisfied.

To a considerate man, it is obvious that the whig party in the state will no longer endure these reproaches in silence. They demand and have a right to know the CHARACTERS of the men that dare to make such accusations.

It is a maxim of our jurisprudence, founded in the immutable principles of equity and justice, and conforms with our habits, that when a *private individual* is accused, he has a right to know the CHARACTER of the accuser. This maxim applies with multiplied force when whole classes of citizens are openly and rudely

assailed. Citizens who have identified themselves with liberty and virtue, who belong to the mass of the people, and can have no interest separate from their own.

In such an inquiry it would be as disgusting as it would be unavailing, to draw under observation the *character* of the editors of the Morning Post and Public Advertiser ; pursuing the destruction of the republican party, though by different means, they have long since relinquished all pretensions to veracity. Their unceasing efforts to destroy the CLINTONIANS have betrayed their malignity, without repairing their reputations, and a question remains to be solved whether folly or falsehood is the most impotent.

Nor can it be expected that I should reduce myself to a level and waste the time of the reader with the profligate of all parties. Such men can have no character. Their influence like their reputation is confined to the boxes of a porter house. I shall however do justice to the meeting ; they have a claim upon me for justice, and they shall have it.

I shall proceed directly to their chief, and examine the character of the man whom they chose for their chairman ; under the sanction of whose name the people of this state are gravely called upon to make great and unusual sacrifices, and even to throw contumely and reproach upon GEORGE CLINTON, the pride of his native state ; the ornament of his country ; the man who has guided us safely through the storms and tempests of an arduous conflict ; wise in the cabinet ; brave in the field ; upright in private life ; affording us by the numberless proofs of his patriotism, and the uniform tenor of his long and useful life, a just claim to rank him with Aristides of Greece, and Cincinnatus

of Rome. This is not the language of adulation.—The fame of the vice-president can neither be encreased or diminished by a handbill. The writer of this can receive nothing from him. It is a tribute due to great and extraordinary virtues. Some modern Plutarch will record his services and his fame. He will live in the affections of his country, and posterity will wonder that he should have had an enemy in the republic.

WHIGS AND SONS OF WHIGS !

What will be your feelings when you shall know that the man who presided at the meeting—the instrument that intrigue and artifice made use of to sow dissensions in the republican ranks—the person under whose name your venerable Clinton was to be sacrificed—who sat at the immolation in defiance of all public decency, and in mockery and scoff of every whig feeling—WAS A TORY.

I speak not on light or equivocal grounds. The evidence is decisive and irresistible. The British dungeons and prison ships have left some living witnesses. The fact is a matter of record.

MANGLE MINTHORNE, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING, WAS A TORY, and in the day's of '76 was by the New-York committee of safety, *unanimously* voted to be an enemy to the American cause. He remained under British protection—was fostered by the enemies of his country, and enriched by their favor and patronage.

*Extract from the minutes of the
Committee of safety, for the
City and County of New-
York, in 1776.*

Wednesday Afternoon,
June 5, 1776.

Committee met by Adjournment.

PRESENT.

Garret Abeel, Chairman,
Mr. Dunscomb,
Mr. Ash,
Mr. Gilbert,
Mr. Kierstead,
Mr. Blake,
Mr. Van Dyke,
Mr. S. Schermerhorn,
Mr. N^o Anthony,
Mr. Basset,
Mr. Stockholm,
Mr. Wilmot,
Mr. Ivers,
Mr. Elliot,
Mr. Manley,
Mr. Campbell,
Mr. Prince.

The committee proceeded on the information against Captain Mangle Minthorne, and examined witnesses. The same afternoon, the committee taking into consideration the information against Mangle Minthorne, and the evidence touching the same, thereupon,

Resolved, That the said Mangle Minthorne has designedly and knowingly violated the resolution of Congress in the sale of tea, and that he be held up to the public and considered as an enemy to the American cause, and treated accordingly.

Ordered, that Mr. Wilmot prepare and report an advertisement for that purpose.

Adjourned until To-morrow Morning.

Thursday Morning,
June 6, 1776.

Committee met by Adjournment.

PRESENT,

Garrit Abeel, Chairman,
Mr. Harper,
Capt. Ivers,
Capt. Johnston,
Mr. A. Gilbert,
Mr. Dunscomb,
Mr. Van Dyke,
Mr. Campbell,
Mr. Blake,
Mr. S. Schermerhorn,
Capt. Lawson,
M. Wilmot,
Capt. Revier,
Col. Lott.

Mr. Wilmot, agreeable to an order of yesterday, reported an advertisement against Mangle Minthorne which being read and amended is as follows, viz: complaint was made to the general committee for this city and county, on the 3d day of May last, against Mangle Minthorne, a shop keeper, in Batteau-street,* for violating a resolve of the hon. continental congress in the sale of tea, and as he made oath that he had not then seen either the resolve of congress or this committee, in tenderness to him and his family, supposing him to have no design to counteract the said resolve of congress, and on his promising them not to be guilty of the like again, did agree that the publication of his affidavit would be satisfactory for that offence:—but have since on the fullest proof found that by an avaricious principle he has not only

* Now called Dey-street.

violated his promise, *but that he is so lost to all public virtue and love for his country*, as that he not only in several instances has again violated the resolves of the continental congress, by selling that detestable article of tea, at a higher price than by them limited, but also has said *several disrespectful things of the resolves of that body*. This committee therefore, in consequence of the trust reposed in

them, are obliged to publish to the world, THAT MANGLE MINTHORNE IS BY THEM UNANIMOUSLY VOTED, AND OUGHT BY THE PUBLIC TO BE CONSIDERED AND TREATED AS AN ENEMY TO THE AMERICAN CAUSE, and consequently ought to be precluded from all intercourse with the inhabitants of these UNITED COLONIES.

Such is the character of him, under whose auspices proscription and denunciation have stalked abroad, offending public decorum, and impudently laying claim to exclusive virtue and patriotism.

Have the whigs forgotten that whilst this man was fattening upon the miseries of his country, they and their families were driven from their altars and their homes, leaving their property to be desolated, and themselves encountering all the hardships of seven years banishment? Have they forgotten that GEORGE CLINTON retired with them—sharing their misfortunes—relieving their wants—counselling for their safety—and finally bringing them back with security and with triumph.

To his Excellency, George Clinton, Esq. Governor of the State of New-York, Commander in Chief of the Militia, and Admiral of the Navy of the same.

THE ADDRESS of the Citizens of New-York who have returned from exile, in behalf of themselves and their suffering brethren.

SIR,

WHEN we consider your faithful labours at the head of

the government of this state, devoid, as we conceive every free people ought to be of flattery, we think we should not be wanting in gratitude to your vigilant and assiduous services in the civil line.

The state, sir, is highly indebted to you in your military capacity: a sense of your real merit will secure to you that reputation which a brave man, exposing himself in defence of his country, will ever deserve.

We most sincerely congratulate you on your happy arrival at the capital of the state. Your Excellency hath borne a part with us in the general distress, and was ever ready to alleviate the calamities you could not effectually remove. Your example taught us to suffer with dignity.

We beg leave to assure your excellency, that as prudent citizens and faithful subjects to the people of the state of New-York, we will do every thing in our power to enable you to support order and good government in the community over which you have, by the suffrages of a free and discerning people, been elected to preside.

Signed at the request of the meeting.

Tho. Randall,
Danl. Phoenix,
Saml. Broome,
Tho. Tucker,
Henry Kipp,
Pat. Dennis,
Wm. Gilbert, Sen.
Wm. Gilbert, Jun.
Francis Van Dyke,
Jeremiah Wool,
Geo. Janeway,
Abraham P. Lott,
Ephraim Brashier.

New-York Nov. 22d, 1783.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S ANSWER,

Gentlemen,

ACCEPT my most sincere thanks for your very affectionate and respectful address.—Citizens, who like you, to vindicate the sacred cause of freedom, quitted their native city, their fortunes, and professions,

and sustained with manly fortitude the rigours of a long and painful exile, superadded to the grievous calamities of a VENGEFUL WAR, merit, in an eminent degree, the title of patriots, and the esteem of mankind: and your confidence and approbation are honours which cannot be received without the utmost sensibility, or contemplated without gratitude and satisfaction.

To your sufferings, and the invincible spirit with which they were surmounted, I have been witness; and while I sympathized in your distresses, I have deeply lamented that I had not means to alleviate them, equal to my inclination.

The assurances of your firm support in the administration of government, give me singular pleasure. A reverence for the laws is peculiarly essential to public safety and prosperity under our free constitution; and should we suffer the authority of the magistrate to be violated for the sake of private vengeance, we should be unworthy of the numberless blessings which an indulgent Providence hath placed within our reach. I shall endeavour readily to discharge my duty, and I flatter myself that this state will become no less distinguished for justice and public tranquillity in peace, than it has hitherto been marked in war, for vigour, fortitude, and perseverance.

Gentlemen,

Your kind congratulations on my arrival at this metropolis, after so long an absence, are highly acceptable; and I most cordially facilitate with you on the joyful events which have

restored us to the free and uncontrollable enjoyment of our rights. While we regard with inviolable gratitude and affection, all who have aided us by their counsel or their arms, let us not be unmindful of that Almighty Being, whose gracious providence has been manifestly interposed for our deliverance

and protection; and let us shew by our virtues, that we deserve to partake of the freedom, sovereignty, and independence, which are so happily established throughout these United States.

GEO. CLINTON.

New-York, Nov. 26, 1783.

FELLOW-CITIZENS,

I have given to you NAMES, TIMES and PLACES.
I will not insult you by Declamation—I state facts—
It rests with you to make commentaries.

A Whig of '76.

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